



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

SEP 14 1998

Honorable George Bush
Governor of Texas
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: State of Texas' Assumption of NPDES Program Authority

Dear Governor Bush:

Today, I authorized the State of Texas to implement its Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) program for regulating wastewater discharges. Enclosed is a copy of the final signed Federal Register notice dated September 14, 1998.

With this summer's drought we all became more aware of the importance of water, both quality and quantity, in our daily life. I congratulate you, the Commissioners, and the staff of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC), for designing a program meeting all the Clean Water Act requirements. Your personal support for additional resources and response to emerging issues will be vital in addressing public concern and scrutiny of the program as we move forward from today. EPA takes very seriously its oversight role in ensuring that this life giving resource is protected for the use and enjoyment of future generations. I look forward to working in partnership with TNRCC to protect and improve the quality of Texas' surface waters.

My staff and I are committed to assisting the states in Region 6 to initiate and implement their environmental protection programs. To this end, we will work closely with TNRCC in these next few months to insure a smooth transition; and in the future to meet our responsibilities and challenges. Again, let me congratulate you and everyone at the state on their fine effort. If we can assist you in any way, please feel free to call.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gregg A. Cooke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregg A. Cooke
Regional Administrator